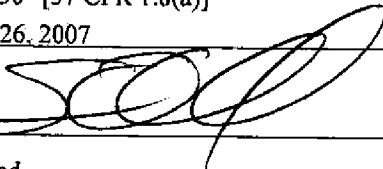
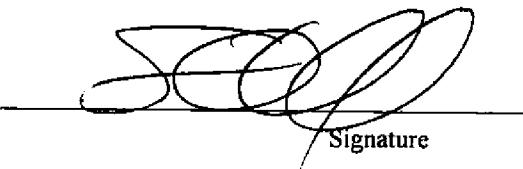


<b>NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE EXAMINER OF THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES</b>		Docket Number (Optional) 2380-561						
<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on <u>December 26, 2007</u></p> <p> Signature</p> <p>Typed or printed name <u>Sean V. O'Connell, Esquire</u></p>		<p>In re Application of David R. Payne, Gerald A. Stangl, Norman E. Stevens, Jr., and Michael F. Gard</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application Number 10/617,975</td> <td>Filed July 12, 2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">For: System and Method for Automatically Drilling and Backreaming a Horizontal Bore Underground</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit 3671</td> <td>Examiner Raymond W. Addie</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number 10/617,975	Filed July 12, 2003	For: System and Method for Automatically Drilling and Backreaming a Horizontal Bore Underground		Art Unit 3671	Examiner Raymond W. Addie
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Art Unit 3671	Examiner Raymond W. Addie							
<p>Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the last decision of the examiner.</p> <p>The fee for this Notice of Appeal is (37 CFR 41.20(b)(1)) <u>\$ Not Applicable</u> Applicant previously paid a fee for the notice of appeal on June 17, 2005.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Therefore, the fee shown above is reduced by half, and the resulting fee is: <u>\$ _____</u>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>_____</u>. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) (PTO/SB/22) is enclosed.</p> <p><b>WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</b></p>								
<p>I am the</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See <u>37 CFR 3.71</u>. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record. <u>405/606-3360</u> Registration number <u>42,951</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34(a). Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34(a) <u>December 26, 2007</u></p> <p> Signature</p> <p>Typed or printed name <u>Sean V. O'Connell</u></p> <p>Telephone number <u>405/606-3360</u></p> <p>Date <u>December 26, 2007</u></p>								
<p>NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Total of <u>1</u> forms are submitted.</p>								

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 41.31. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minute to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.